regular intervals, and the disability certificates are issued to the eligible persons onthe same day on which these are recommended by the medical board.

In addition Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has also issued guidelines in the year 2001& 2002 for expeditious evaluation of disabilities and procedure for certifications to the State Government/Uts.

Advertisement on drugs

†2688. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unani or herbal medicines of different types, attracting teh patients by advertisements these days, are licensed by Government;

(b) whether Government have found them suitable for the treatment of advertised diseases after making complete test of these medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action that has been taken by Government so far on sale and advertisement of such unauthorized medicines treating it as illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Advertisements of drugs including Unani and Herbal medicine is regulated under the provisions of Drugs and magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 advertisements of any drug for specified 54 diseases and disorders listed under the schedule to the Act as well as under the Rules framed under the Act.

All medicines including Unani or Herbal can be manufactured only under a license obtained from the respective licensing authorities following the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder. Quality test of these medicines are also regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Advertisement for specified disease of schedule is against the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable advertisement) Act 1954.

Government have taken the following steps:—

(1) Periodic letters are issued to the state Licensing authorities to keep vigil and initiate action, issue notices to the defaulters of DMR (OA) Act.

(2) Meeting of the State Licensing authorities, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Drug Consultative Committee (ASUDCC) was called on 19.8.2005 and instructions was issued to implement the act firmly.

(3) An agency was engaged to screen the National and Regional Newspapers and send the cuttings to the State Licensing Authorities to take action against the defaulters.

Charges for various tests in government hospitals

2689. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHABVA:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Medical Colleges includes All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have introduced charges for many tests and medical investigations and surgical/operative procedures, aids and appliances which were free of cost earlier;

(b) whether it is a fact that AIIMS has also increased the charges for various tests;

(c) if so, the details of medical colleges that have introduced above fee as on today, State-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether steps will be taken to withdraw above charges; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same in detail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Central Government institutions charge only for specialized investigations, procedures and admissions to private wards. The poor patients are fully exempted from all charges. The Government has no information in respect of medical colleges administered by State Governments. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi rationalized the charges after a gap of 12 years. The poor patients continue to get free treatment as hitherto